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AP English Language and Composition

In my opinion, class rank in high schools is wrong. Class rank is a system for rating high school students among their classmates. I think that high schools across the nation should abolish the use of class rank for various reasons. I agree with many high schools that have gotten rid of class rank when they say that class rank only recognizes the top percent of the graduating class and fails to recognize the hard work put forth by many other good students. Class rank is determined from a student’s grade point average, which is also known as GPA. High schools offer advanced placement courses, which ultimately weighs the grade point average system and therefore boosts a student’s class rank.   
I also think that class rank serves as a type of unnecessary competition between class mates on who is more successful in school. I firmly believe that class rank should be eliminated from high schools.

Although I feel believe high schools should get rid of class ranking, it does have advantages. Obviously, the top percentile of a graduating class is much in favor of class rank because it embellishes their already dapper high school résumé. Another advantage of class rank is the ease it provides for colleges and universities when they are selecting students to accept into their school. Colleges appreciate the ranking system in which it ranks certain students among their contemporaries. Many colleges rely mostly on students’ un-weighted grade point average, but class rank is also a large part in the decision making process among schools. Class ranking provides some advantages for a select group of students and many colleges and universities.

The majority of the class ranking issue among high schools is the fact that most high schools students are not recognized for their hard work and good grades. In my own experiences, I also feel that colleges will overlook my above average grade point average and focus mainly on my class rank, which is not in the top twenty percent of my class. I think that my class rank will provide as a barrier for my acceptance in certain colleges. I have witnessed many of my friends arguing over each other’s class rank, and how it determines who is better in academics. I often intervene and inform my friends that class rank is an unfair process of selecting the top students of a class, and the determination of academic acknowledgement should be done so through grade point average. Many high schools across the nation also believe that class rank is unfair. The majority of private schools have eliminated class rank, and over forty percent of high schools in the nation have abolished the use of class rank. At Oak Park high school forty-five seniors have a GPA of 4.0. “As a matter of fact, at Oak Park a 4.0 GPA doesn’t even place a student in the top 10% of their class.” Oak Park, along with other high schools, agrees on how these exceptional students would not be recognized for their hard work because of class rank. In many ways, class rank is unfair to a large group of students.

Class rank should be eliminated from all high schools. It serves as an unfair advantage to the top percentile of a grade level and fails to recognize other students. Although the elimination of class rank could make the acceptance process among colleges more difficult, I believe that the recognition of all good students is worth the setbacks given to colleges and universities. If Fairview abolished the class ranking system, my grade, as well as many of my peers’ grades, would look much better and we would be more likely to be accepted by a wider range of colleges come graduation. Not only would the abolition of class rank help me and my peers, but it would also help millions of students across the nation in similar situations such as my own. If class rank was rid of permanently, a broad spectrum of students would have a large advantage in their future ambitions.